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Message Text

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47
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SU
SUBJECT: USG/GOS RELATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH PRIMIN

REF: KHARTOUM 2962

BEGIN SUMMARY. PRIMIN BAKR HAS ASSURED AMBASSADOR HE NOT UNDULY CONCERNED WITH PACE REACTIVATION OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS AS LONG AS TREND IS FOR GRADUALLY INCREASING MOMENTUM. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT USG INTENDS TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP FOLLOWING NIMEIRI'S USEFUL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING MY RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS, I CALLED ON PRIMIN RASHID EL TAHIR BAKR OCT 13 AT MY REQUEST TO CONGRATUALTE HIM ON HIS APPOINTMENT AND OUTLINE STATUS CONSIDERATION PENDING BILATERAL PROGRAMS. BAKR, WHO HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH MOURNING RITES FOR "NIMEIRI'S SHEIKH" (ELDERLY BLUE NILE PROVINCE DIVINE WHO ALSO PRIMIN'S FATHER-IN-LAW AND WHO DIED SUDDENLY OCT 3) SEEMED TIRED BUT FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT OUR HOUR-LONG TALK.

2. DRAWING ON MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, I ASSURED PRIMIN, AS I HAD MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG (REFTEL), THAT I HAD FOUND HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST AMONG TOP USG OFFICIALS IN DEVELOPMENT OF BROAD RANGE OF CORDIAL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. I THEN REVIEWED STATUS SPECIFIC ITEMS AS I HAD WITH DENG. PRIMIN COMMENTED RUEFULLY THAT SOME GOS OFFICIALS WERE
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COMPLAINING RE PACE REACTIVATION OUR PROGRAMS BUT THAT HE,

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HIMSELF, COULD UNDERSTAND THAT INITIAL MOVEMENT WOULD
BE SLOW. THIS ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS GRADUALLY
INCREASING MOMENTUM DEVELOPED. I ASSURED HIM THAT WAS
OUR INTENTION BUT NOTED THAT NUMBER EXTRANEOUS EVENTS, SUCH
AS FACT CONGRESS NOT IN SESSION, MIGHT OPERATE TO REDUCE
SPEED USG RESPONSE ON PARTICULAR ITEMS SUCH AS C-130
REQUEST. I STRESSED THAT ANY SUCH BUREAUCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS
SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS LITMUS TEST OUR DESIRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. ON OTHER MATTERS, I INFORMED PRIMIN THAT CDC INTEREST
IN SENDING TWO-MAN TEAM HERE TO INVESTIGATE OUTBREAK OF
VIRAL INFECTION IN SOUTH (STATE 252300) HAD BEEN CONVEYED
TO FONMINISTRY OCT 12. ALSO BRIEFED BAKR RE ROLE AND
RESPONSIBILITIES COMIDEASTFOR, EXPRESSING PLEASURE THAT
GOS HAD AGREED ADMIRAL CROWE COULD MAKE HIS CURRENT
VISIT HERE ON SCHEDULE. I REFERRED TO RECENT NAVAL PORT
CALLS PORT SUDAN AND SAID I KNEW USN, AS WELL AS USG,
APPRECIATED HOSPITALITY AND FACILITIES WHICH SUDANESE
REGULARLY EXTEND DURING THESE COURTESY VISITS. BAKR CON-
CLUDED THAT HE LOOKED FOR INCREASING ACTIVITY IN GOS/USG
RELATIONS. HE INVITED ME TO SEE HIM PERIODICALLY FOR GENERAL
DISCUSSIONS OUTSTANDING ITEMS WHICH I, OF COURSE, AGREED TO DO.

4. COMMENT. EVEN MORE THAN MOST ARABS, SUDANESE HAVE
TENDENCY TO TELL THEIR INTERLOCUTORS WHAT LATTER WANT TO HEAR.
AT SAME TIME, PRIMIN'S COMMENTS AND GENERALLY RELAXED ATTITUDE
SUGGEST THAT HE, AT LEAST, RECOGNIZES THAT PACE IMPLEMENTATION
OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS MUST INITIALLY BE SLOW. HIS REMARKS
NEVERTHELESS UNDERLINE THAT SUDANESE EXPECT TEMPO IMPLEMENTATION
OUR ASSISTANCE STEADILY, IF SLOWLY, TO ACCELERATE.
BREWER

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